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LETTER DATED 18 JULY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you from His Excellency Amre Moussa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the enclosed letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nabil ELARABY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the bloody events taking place in Bosnia at the present time - events that have been of such proportions as to go beyond all bounds acceptable to human conscience - I should like to submit to you the points set forth hereunder. The Egyptian Government feels that it has become necessary for the Security Council, in conformity with the responsibility entrusted to it under the Charter of the United Nations, to consider these points in all earnestness and in an expeditious manner so that immediate and workable measures may be devised with a view to bringing an end to a deteriorating situation that portends developments whose dire consequences we must all cooperate in preventing.

1. A lack of commitment to the full implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council and a failure to accord such resolutions the respect they require by giving them immediate and impartial effect have been among the causes of the ongoing savage Serbian assault on the safe areas in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the abandonment of their inhabitants to the odious policy of ethnic cleansing and the contempt expressed for the United Nations and the peace-keeping forces under its flag.

2. The protection of the safe areas in Bosnia is a responsibility that falls directly on the Security Council under the terms of resolution 836 (1993), in which the Council explicitly extends the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia in order to enable it to protect these areas. The Organization has not, however, provided the forces in question with the necessary manpower or equipment to perform the tasks assigned to them in the proper manner. This is despite the readiness expressed by many States Members of the United Nations, including Egypt, within this framework.

3. That the safe areas in Bosnia have fallen in this manner and in spite of the assurances given by the Council deprives the Organization of credibility in the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council must embark immediately on the adoption of effective measures under Chapter VII of the Charter to end the dangerous and unlawful situation of the safe areas, to bring about the complete withdrawal from these areas of the attacking forces and the safe return of the civilians displaced and to ensure that such persons are compensated for the damage caused to them and to their property.

4. It has also become necessary for the Security Council to take immediate steps to halt the Serbian encroachment on these areas and to provide the necessary protection to the United Nations forces in Bosnia in order to enable them to meet their responsibilities in the best and most effective manner.

5. The failures of the international community in providing protection to the people of Bosnia, in halting policies of ethnic cleansing, as constituting a war

crime and a crime against humanity, and in ending the deliberate obstruction of the delivery of humanitarian assistance mean that we must reconsider the maintenance of the arms embargo imposed on Bosnia with a view to enabling its people to exercise its legitimate right to self-defence.

We call upon the Security Council, under your chairmanship, to adopt a frank and objective stance on what is currently happening in Bosnia. I am certain that a serious commitment on the part of the Council to rectifying the currently worsening situation will once more open the way to restoring their lost effectiveness to the Organization and to the Council's resolutions on the situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(Signed) Amre MOUSSA
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Arab Republic of Egypt